

Please amend the text at page 1, lines 2-3 so it reads:

--This application is a continuation of Serial No. 09/931,974 filed August 17, 2001, now pending, which is a non-provisional application which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/226,602[[,]] filed August 18, 2000.--

Please rewrite the sentences at page 5, lines 18-21 so they read as follows:

--FIG. 2 is an embodiment illustrating gel layer 5 bonded to ~~carrier 10~~ carrier 10, having a loop surface 15, bonded to gel layer 5.

FIG. 3 illustrates ~~carrier 10~~ carrier 10, having loop surface 15, bonded to gel layer 5.